THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE:

1. A data capture device which includes

a data capture means, and

a data output,

characterised in that the data capture device includes

processing means that to process the captured data into a format suitable for communication through the data output, and

the capture device is a peripheral device for use in a monitoring system, and

the data is processed into a format suitable for communication to another component in the monitoring system through the data output,

the data capture device includes a memory device capable of recording selected data, and

the data capture device is capable of communicating only selected data, and

the data capture device includes the feature of alarm and event monitoring, and

the selected data recorded is the data immediately surrounding and including an event.

2. A data capture device as claimed in claim 1 in which processing means can compress the data captured.

3. A data capture device as claimed in either claim 1 or claim 2 wherein a data capture device is a digital video camera.

4. A data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 which adds a watermark to the image captured by the data capture device.

5. A data capture device as claimed in either claim 3 or claim 4 which includes the ability to detect motion.

6. A data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 5 which includes means to distinguish over false detection of motion.

7. A data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 6 which includes means to track objects record the path of movement through the field of view.

8. A data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 7 which includes infra-red motion detection.

9. A data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 8 which includes a wide angled lens and an image capture assembly fitted internally at approximately 45 degrees.

10. A data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 9 characterised in that the camera can be fixed into position by pushing and rotating the camera until it locks onto a mounting bracket which has electrical connections that connect to the camera once mounted.

11. A data capture device as claimed in claim 1 which is a digital audio device.

12. A method of operating a data capture device characterised by the steps of:

a) capturing data, and

b) processing the data to a format suitable for communication to a component in a monitoring system, and

c) outputting the data processed data

d) the capture device is a peripheral device for use in a monitoring system, and

e) the data is processed into a format suitable for communication to another component in the monitoring system through the data output,

f) the data capture device includes a memory device capable of recording selected data, and

g) the data capture device is capable of communicating only selected data, and

h) the data capture device includes the feature of alarm and event monitoring, and

I) the selected data recorded is the data immediately surrounding and including an event.

13. A monitoring system which includes a data capture device as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 11.

14. A data capture device substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated by the accompanying drawings.